

REMARKS

This is in response to the Official Action of November 22, 2005. Entry of the Amendment, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is respectfully requested.

A set of formal drawings are included herewith, and it is believed that the reference characters are clearly identifiable, and that the extraneous lines and the like have been removed.

The Examiner indicated that motor 16 was not shown in FIG. 1, but it is in fact shown schematically at 16 in FIG. 1.

The guides 34 are narrow walls shown in FIG. 1, underneath the <sup>slide</sup> slide housing 42, so that the ~~side~~ housing is mounted between the top wall 32 and the lower guides 34. These are also shown in FIG. 9, and labels have been put on those portions in FIG. 9. ✓

The reference character 80 has been provided on FIG. 7, and some additional reference characters have been provided on additional Figures for clarification.

In regard to the objections to the specification, the reference character 5 has been corrected in FIG. 5.

The specification has also been amended to clarify matters relating to the construction of FIG. 3. It is believed that the slide housing and the guides are now properly disclosed. Terminology has been corrected to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, and the "retainers" of claims 4 and 7 have been changed to "stops" which are disclosed at 70 in the figures, particularly in FIGS. 3 and 5.

The Examiner indicated that FIGS. 3-6 and 9 were not described in any detail in the specification, but these figures show details that are fully described in the specification. The Applicant has now amended the specification and made reference to these figures to more fully tie in the figures to the description along with some additional explanation wording. It is believed

that the disclosure is in compliance with the statute, as amended. Approval is respectfully requested.

In regard to the rejection of the claims, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be reconsidered in view of the amendments made to claim 1 and to claim 7 and the dependent claims.

Claims 1, 3, and 7-12 were rejected as anticipated by the Eftefield et al patent.

While Eftefield et al., Patent No. 5,511,868 does show a recoil or spring loading mechanism for an endless track, with two springs of different rates, the arrangement for loading is substantially different from that now described in independent claims 1 and 7.

In claim 1, the track tensioner arm supports the roller, and the claim includes a tubular slide housing (42) and the spring assembly within the tubular slide housing. The slide housing is slidably guided on the track frame with a support, so that it has a unique ability to provide stability for the roller that resists the track tension, as the slide housing may slide back and forth relative to the support on the track frame. The slide housing is tubular, and surrounds the spring assembly. The spring assembly is further defined as having a base plate adjacent the track roller support, and an interior slide plate that is guided on the interior of the slide housing and is positioned between the first and second springs. The first spring is specifically mounted between the slide plate on the interior of the slide housing and a force reaction wall to react spring force to the force reaction wall, while the first spring loads the slide plate against the second stronger spring.

The mechanical stop that is provided engages the slide plate specifically after the first spring is compressed by loads and the track tensioner arm. It is positive stop which will in

initially tensioned by force exerted by the lower force spring 54.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 9, and ending on page 8, line 24, with the following:

Spring 64 is a very stiff, high load spring, so that the track is loaded to the extent necessary without excessive compression of the springs and resulting movement of the tension roller 28 that would result in loosening the track and perhaps letting it buckle or detrack. The nut 58 is the adjustment that makes the setting for the initial tension on the tension roller 28. The nut 58 is held from rotation by a—the spring loading rectangular flange or plate 59 in the sleeve—slide housing 42 and can be adjusted by rotating shaft 50 and hub 52. The circular flange 52A permits the shaft 50 to rotate by using a wrench on the hex end 53. The hex end can be rotated from the exterior in a suitable manner through a side opening 14A in the outer side plate 14. The nut 58 (including flange or plate 59) is pre-set to a desired position on the threaded shaft 50 for preloading first spring 54.